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declared that he was ready to assume all the added responsibilities that it might entail, and put forth as his political program "a powerful German empire under the enlightened government of the Hohenzollerns."

During the regency of 1878, though called upon to govern according to his father's ideas and often to act contrary to his own convictions, he maintained a strictly correct attitude, and only in his dealings with the papacy was he able to outline a personal policy. His influence in inducing William I. to sign the treaty of 1879 with Austria, commonly thought to have been considerable, is in this work reduced to a minimum, though the only evidence given by the author in support of her statement is the already known comments of Bismarck in his "Reflections and Reminiscences." The story of Frederick's three months' reign is simply told, without any attempt to rehearse the unhappy quarrels and recriminations arising from the emperor's sickness. A little space is devoted to the forced resignation of Bismarck's kinsman, von Puttkamer, because of official interference in the elections, but beyond that nothing is said. The book ends abruptly without summing up or general conclusion. But so ample is the information furnished in the body of the work that the reader is able readily to arrive at his own conclusions and to form, without further assistance, an admirable idea of the man whom the world has always admired and will admire none the less for this book.

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The American Slave Trade. An Account of its Origin, Growth and Suppression. By JOHN R. SPEARS. Illustrated by Walter Appleton Clark. Pp. xvi and 232. Price, \$2.50. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1900.

That history in which exact and painstaking scholarship is linked with a readable and interesting style seldom sees the light of day. One has usually the choice between a dry catalogue of facts and a "popular" treatise. Mr. Spears' book is distinctly popular, written in an easy, almost careless style and embellished with pictures, some striking and some curious, it is a volume which people will read. Its tone is high and the general impression given is a true one. Nevertheless one cannot help regretting that the element of scholarship was not more marked. There is a dogmatism about some alleged facts, an irregular massing of material and a lack of perspective and proportion in the work which is disappointing. For instance, we are told that "not one act passed by a colonial legislature showed any appreciation of the intrinsic evil in the [slave] trade or tended to extirpate it from

the seas—not one” (p. 97); that it was wholly political policy, with no touch of philanthropy, that prohibited slavery in the new colony of Georgia (p. 96), and that Oglethorpe was “one of the most active participants” in the slave trade “known to his age.” Again, some chapters, like the one on the international phase of slave-trade suppression, are more like catalogues or extracts from a note-book than careful essays.

The most valuable parts of the work are the anecdotes and tales of the trade, which are attractively written and calculated to interest. Such chapters as relate to “Old Time Slaver Captains and Their Ships,” “The Slaver’s Profit,” “Tales of the Earlier Smugglers,” etc., are much more readable than the historical chapters. There is a dangerous blending of history and fiction in the book that makes the reader not always certain of his ground.

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